

REVISED:
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Arnold
November 9, 2004

Contact: John
(916) 653-7090

Living History, Music and Special Events

Celebrate the Holidays in State Parks

From costumed docents to strolling musicians, pioneer craft making, special children's programs and eye-catching turn-of-the century floral arrangements, visitors can add to their holiday spirit by attending any of the special events that will be held at many State Parks throughout California.

Here's a sample of what's going on:

Coloma

Visitors to **Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park**, located in Coloma on Highway 49 between Placerville and Auburn, can get in the holiday spirit with a 1850s celebration at "Christmas in Coloma" on Sunday, **December 12** from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. The cost is \$7 per vehicle.

The event is filled with entertainment and activities for all ages, including holiday shopping, historic trade demonstrations, strolling musicians, 19th-century games, and wreath making. A visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus is the highlight of the day for kids – and snow is guaranteed.

The event is presented by the Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park and the Gold Discovery Park Association, a nonprofit organization whose mission it is to promote the interpretation and conservation of the Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park.

For more information, call (530) 295-2162.

Lompoc

On **December 8 La Purisima Mission State Historic Park**, three miles northeast of Lompoc, and Prelado de los Tesoros celebrate the founding of La Purisima Mission by providing an evening of music in a candlelight setting. Four-hundred luminaries will guide guests to the church for a musical performance by a local group. After the performance, guests are invited to enjoy fellowship and

refreshments. Free tickets for this event became available November 1st. Seating is extremely limited. For information, call (805) 733-3713.

Monterey

Monterey State Historic Park in downtown Monterey will hold its 21st “Christmas in the Adobes” (in partnership with Old Monterey Preservation Society) on Thursday **December 9** and Saturday **December 11** from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Visitors will be able to see 19 historic buildings in old Monterey decorated for the holidays. Guided by candle lights and luminarias, visitors will walk at their own pace and meet costumed docents and staff who will talk about the history of the buildings. Entertainment and activities will match the history of the buildings. Cost is \$15 for adults and \$2 for children ages six to 17. For tickets and more information, please call (831) 647-6226.

On New Year’s Eve, **December 31**, Monterey State Historic Park is one of the sponsors of “First Night,” an alcohol-free celebration. This is the 12th year for the event which takes place throughout the downtown area beginning at 3 p.m. and ending at midnight at Custom House Plaza. For information, call Jeanie Sturges at (831) 649-7118.

Red Bluff

William B. Ide Adobe State Historic Park will host a “Pioneer Christmas Party” On **December 18** from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Visitors will have a chance to participate in pioneer crafts, Christmas carols and refreshments. Admission is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children four to 11 years of age. The park is in Red Bluff on Adobe Road. The park phone number is (530) 529-8599.

Sacramento Area

Visitors can celebrate a holiday tradition at the **California State Capitol** in downtown Sacramento. Holiday music fills the dome daily, as California’s State Capitol features lunchtime holiday concerts from **December 1 through 23**. Visitors can enjoy a different musical presentation (from saxophones to banjos, choirs to barbershop quartets) each day in a rotunda decked with decorations and turn-of-the century floral arrangements. The Capitol’s Holiday Music Program recaptures a tradition of festive music and decor, which began with the grand opening of the Capitol in December of 1869. For more information, call (916) 324-0333.

On **November 26 and 27** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the **California State Indian Museum** will host the Annual Holiday Arts and Crafts Faire with a wonderful showing of California Indian crafts. Visitors will have the opportunity to meet the artists and a choice of hundreds of handcrafted items, including jewelry,

baskets, artwork, needle work, pottery, Christmas ornaments, hand painted and beaded gourds and much, much more. Admission is \$2 for adults; children 16 and under are free. The museum is located at 2618 K Street in downtown Sacramento. For more information call: (916) 324-0971

On the weekends of **December 4 and 5 and 11 and 12** from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. the **Governor's Mansion State Historic Park** welcomes visitors to "Holiday Memories." The Mansion is located in downtown Sacramento at 16th and H streets. This annual holiday open house features holiday decorations, live music, and the opportunity to have your photo taken with Santa and mingle with costumed docents. Admission for adults is \$5, and for children ages six to 16, it is \$3. Children under five years of age are free. For more information, call (916) 323-3047.

December 11 will mark "An Emigrant Christmas" at **Sutter's Fort State Historic Park** in mid-downtown Sacramento. The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for children ages six to 16. Children under five are admitted free. Join the Sutter's Fort costumed volunteers and experience the Christmas traditions brought by the pioneers to their new homes in the West. The park is located at 2701 "L" Street in Sacramento. The phone number is (916) 445-4422.

San Simeon

Beginning Friday, November 12th the yearly tradition of Christmas decorations at **Hearst Castle(®)** starts to unfold. The staff at Hearst Castle(®) will be decorating the castle from November 12th through December 1st. On Wednesday, December 1st the decorating will be complete for the public to enjoy. The Assembly Room, The Refectory, and The Morning Room contain lavish decorations of garlands, brilliant red poinsettias, and two 18-foot Christmas trees fully decorated with lights and traditional ornaments. The Experience Tour during the daytime includes these rooms for viewing. Tours are offered daily, except Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. Reservations are highly recommended due to the limited availability. Experience Tour prices are \$20 for adults and \$10 for youth ages 6 through 17. For tour®reservations please call (800) 444-4445 or online at www.hearstcastle.com <<http://www.hearstcastle.com/>> . For information please call Dan Eller at (805) 927-2074.

Santa Barbara

El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park will feature "Una Noche de Las Posadas," (One Night of Las Posadas) on **Saturday, December 11** from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. This traditional procession is a re-enactment of Joseph and Mary's search for lodging in Bethlehem. It will begin at the Presidio

Chapel and wind over to State Street, through Paseo Nuevo and De la Guerra Plaza and continue to Casa de la Guerra. The procession will end at the Casa de la Guerra with authentic refreshments and celebration. For more information, contact Jennifer Frickel at (805) 966-1279.

Santa Cruz

On **December 18** from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Wilder Ranch State Park**, which is two miles north of the Santa Cruz on Highway 1, will host "Holidays on the Ranch," celebrating the holiday season as it was in Mexican, Victorian, and early 20th century times. For more information, call the park at (831) 426-0505.

Sonora

Columbia State Historic Park presents a Miner's Christmas celebration on the first two weekends of December. The park is located three miles north of Sonora off Highway 49. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each Saturday and Sunday, trained park docents dress in costume from the 1850s and roast chestnuts and heat cider over an open fire for the enjoyment of park visitors. Volunteers also entertain with stories, songs, children's activities, and there will be a visit from Santa.

On **Sunday, December 12** beginning at 5 p.m., the town is aglow with luminarias as **Las Posadas** is presented. In this miner's version of the classic parade through town in search of a manger, the wise men are replaced by the characters of the old town of Columbia, and the angel stands atop one of the historic town buildings.

The highlight of the season is the annual "**Lamplight Tour**" of the park on the first Friday and Saturday evening in December. This is the 21st year for this fundraising event for Friends of Columbia State Historic Park (formerly known as Columbia Historical Preservation Society). Columbia's staff, docents, and volunteers join to present lamplight tours into the buildings and through the streets of the town, just as it was during the Christmas of 1859. The cost for the tours is \$20 per person on Friday and \$25 per person on Saturday. Reservations are required, and tickets sell out early. The program this year highlights the purchase and arrival of Papeete, Columbia's first hand pumped "fire engine." The women of town raised funds to purchase the machine by holding a Fireman's Ball, which visitors will experience at the finale, complete with refreshments and period dancing. For more information, call the park at (209) 588-9128.

For information on these activities, or to purchase Lamplight tickets, visit www.columbiacalifornia.com or call the park at (209) 588-9128.

Visit California State Parks on-line at www.parks.ca.gov

###